Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6662

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NESCO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: STUDY GROUP ON UNESCO INFORMATION PROGRAM

REF: PARIS 308L4; STATE 17066 AND 30289

- 1. FOLLOWING JAN. 17 DECISION OF DG M'BOW, INTER-SECTORAL "COMMITTEE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF PROGRAMS CONCERNING INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES" WAS ESTABLISHED AT UNESCO. CHAIRED BY DDG FOBES, IT IS COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MEMBERS; TWO EACH FROM EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND COMMUNICATION SECTORS AND ONE EACH FROM SHC, RMO, BUREAU OF BUDGET, AND OFFICE OF DATA PROCESSING.
- 2. FORMER ADG FOR PRE-PROGRAMMING, ELMANDJRA, SERVES AS SPECIAL ADVISOR AND DE FACTO RUNS THE PROJECT. HE IS COORDINATING INPUTS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS CONCERNING CONVENING OF EXPERTS MEETING (SEE BELOW) AS WELL AS PREPARATION OF WORKING PAPERS AND COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUBJECT MATTER TO THE DG. HE WILL ALSO CHAIR COMMITTEE'S SECOND (MARCH 17TH) AND THIRD (APRIL 21ST) MEETINGS WHILE FOBES IS AWAY IN US. IT IS GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THOSE IN POSITION TO KNOW THE INNER WORKING OF UNESCO'S NEW REGIME THAT ELMANDJRA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO IS NOW "WITHOUT PORTFOLIO" AND WHOSE CONTRACT WITH

UNESCO WAS EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS, IS TRYING TO CREATE JOB FOR HIMSELF AS FUTURE BOSS OF SOME KIND OF CONGLOM-ERATE OF DBA, UNISIST, ED AND COM "INFORMATION BUSINESS EMPIRE."

- 3. ELMANDJRA'S APPROACH TO CONVENING MEETING OF EXPERTS (AND TO WHOLE QUESTION OF ORGANIZATION OF UNESCO INFORMATION PROGRAM) IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM ONE WE REPORTED IN PARIS 30814, WHICH, BY AND LARGE, REFLECTED VIEW OF SCIENCE SECTOR AND WITH WHICH FOBES WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT. RATHER THAN WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ELMANDJRA SEES IT AS CATEGORY VI MEETING OF PRIVATE EXPERTS WHO WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REACT TO WORKING PAPERS, PREPARED BY ABOVE INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEE, REFLECTING "BROAD CONSENSUS" YET TO BE REACHED WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT.
- 4. AS BEST AS WE COULD ASCERTAIN AT THIS TIME, ELMANDJRA'S PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR SELECTION OF EXPERTS, TO BE CONVENED JUNE 16 20, IS AS FOLLOWS: HE WOULD HAVE (A) SEVEN EXPERTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EACH WITH FOLLOWING BACKGROUND -- SYSTEM ANALYST AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, GENERALIST, EDUCATION, SCIENCE, SHC, ARCHIVE, AND ONE PLANNING EXPERT; (B) SIX FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES (INCLUDING US): SYSTEM ANALYST AND INFO SCIENCE, GENERALIST, EDUCATION, SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION, AND ONE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST; (C) THREE FROM EASTERN EUROPE: GENERALIST, EDUCATION, SCIENCE; AND (D) FOUR REPRESENTING (IN PERSONAL CAPACITY) FOLLOWING NGO'S:

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ICSU (SCIENTIST), IFLA (GENERALIST), FID (GENERALIST), AND ISSC (SOCIAL SCIENTIST). TOTAL 20 EXPERTS, SOME OF WHOM WILL BE APPOINTED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE DG AND OTHERS BY GOVERNMENTS AT DG'S INVITATION.

5. SECRETARIAT TARGET DATES FOR HOLDING MEETING OF EXPERTS AND PREPARATION OF DG'S REPORT TO THE 98TH (FALL) SESSION OF EXBOARD AS FOLLOWS:

MAY 2 - SENDING OF INVITATIONS;

MAY 15 - SENDING OF WORKING DOCUMENTS;

JUNE 16 - 20 - MEETING OF EXPERTS:

JULY 1 - RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTER-SECTORAL COMMITTEE TO DG FOR PREPARATION OF HIS REPORT TO EXBD;

JULY 15 - 20 - SENDING OF DG'S REPORT TO COL.

6. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS TO BE DEEP DIVISION OF OPINION WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT AS TO HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER. SOME FEAR THAT IF ELMANDJRA'S GRAND SCHEME (I.E. TO HAVE ALL UNESCO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INFORMATION IN ONE NEW DEPARTMENT OR SECTOR) PREVAILS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS WILL PUT AN END TO UNISIST PROGRAM. WE, THEREFORE' SUGGEST THAT DEPT. USES OPPORTUNITY OF DDG FOBES PRESENCE NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON AND DISCUSS THIS URGENT MATTER WITH FOBES.
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